

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of March 23, 2006.

Claims 1-21 and 23-30 are pending in the application. Claim 22 has been withdrawn from further consideration and has now been canceled. Claim 11 has been amended. Claims 1-10, 23-30 have been canceled. Claims 31-39 have been added. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Record is also made of a telephonic interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on May 16, 2006. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claims 1-21 and 23-30. More specifically, applicant's representative pointed out that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the absence of intermeshing of the individual surface structures of the comb elements.

The Examiner agreed that the subject matter of claim 11 is distinguishable over the prior art of record, provided claim 11 is clarified accordingly. The Examiner further noted that an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of claim 11 and all the claims ultimately dependent on claim 1.

As a result of the interview, applicant now submits the amendments to claim 11, which are drawn up in accordance with the agreement at the interview so as to overcome the rejection to the claims as set forth in the Examiner's Official Action of March 23, 2006. Claims 31-39 have added and basically set forth the subject matter of original claims 2-10, now canceled.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and

believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Henry M. Feiereisen
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,084

Date: May 18, 2006
350 Fifth Avenue
Suite 4714
New York, N.Y. 10118
(212) 244-5500
HMF:af